

A composite image featuring Marlon Shirley. On the left, a full-body shot shows him in mid-stride on a track, wearing a white USA singlet with bib number 2040 and a prosthetic left leg. On the right, a close-up profile shows him wearing sunglasses and looking forward with determination.

in stride with **MARLON SHIRLEY**

Marlon Shirley is no stranger to adversity. He has endured, and persevered through, more challenges and setbacks than even the strongest among us should have to bear. With a truly unbreakable spirit he has pursued and achieved excellence both on and off the athletic field of competition.

In the summer of 2000, Marlon captured the 100m Gold Medal at the Sydney Paralympic Games and kicked off a remarkable journey of world class athletic accomplishment that would make him the world's fastest amputee and the holder of three World Records; 100m, 200m and the Long Jump. Marlon is the first amputee to break the 11 second barrier over 100 meters in a remarkable 10.97 seconds – a time few able-bodied runners can match!

At the age of five, a carefree time of fun and play for the average child, Marlon Shirley was literally living on the streets of Las Vegas. His early childhood was spent in and out of orphanages, simply trying to find a way and silently hoping for a break. Negligent care resulted in a life altering lawnmower accident and the amputation of his left foot at the ankle. Finally, at nine years old, Marlon was blessed by the adoption of the Shirley family from Utah.

Adjusting to a life very different than that which he had ever previously known was no easy transition but the Shirleys and Marlon eventually found peace, as well as Marlon's gifted calling in track and field.

Marlon now lives and trains in San Diego, at the US Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista with the High Performance Paralympic Team under coach Joaquim Cruz. Having won the 100m Gold Medal at both the 2000 & 2004 Paralympic Games Marlon has set his sights on the 2008 Beijing Games where he hopes to add gold medals in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump event.

Off the track Marlon created 'Marlon Shirley's Champions in Life', a mentoring program for other homeless and foster children. He is a dynamic and inspirational public speaker who regularly shares his remarkable story with organizations and corporations across the country. He has been recognized by the United Nations as a Role Model of the 21st Century', is a two time ESPN ESPY Award winner and the recipient of the US Olympic Spirit Award.

Follow Marlon at www.mshirley.com

Points of Interest

Fastest amputee in the world.
First amputee to break the 11 second barrier (10.97).

Came back from reconstructive knee surgery in 6 months to win 3 gold medals at the European World Championships.

Marlon gives his time to various foster care programs, including the creation of "Marlon Shirley's Champion in Life" program targeting San Diego's homeless and foster children.

Marlon is currently training for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games with the goal of an unprecedented 5 medals.



MARLON SHIRLEY

at a glance



Accomplishments

8 Time World Champion

World Record Holder 100M 11.05

World Record Holder 200M 22.67

World Record Holder Long Jump 6.78

Current World Record Holder (100m, 200m & Long Jump)

2007 Parapan American Games,
2007 Paralympic U.S. Nationals,

Gold Medalist 100m (11.05)

Gold Medalist 100m (11.05)
(Breaking his own World record)

2006 IPC World Championships 2006

Gold medalist (long jump),
Gold Medalist (relay 4x100m)

European Championships 2005

Gold Medalist (100m)
Gold Medalist (200m)
Gold Medalist (long jump)
Gold Medalist (4 x 100m)

Athens 2004 Paralympic Games

Gold Medalist (100m)
Silver Medalist (200m)
Bronze Medalist (long jump)

Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

Gold Medalist (100m)

Hometown: Tremonton, Utah • Resides in: San Diego, CA.
Birthdate: April 21st, 1978 • Weight: 185 • Height: 6', 1"